AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS;

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of the claims in the application:

Please amend the claims as follows:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A method for stable expression of a transgene in a ~~eukaryotic~~ plant host cell, the method comprising:

a) providing a viral vector suitable for introduction into the ~~eukaryotic~~ plant host cell, wherein the viral vector encodes an altered viral movement protein and a transgene, and wherein the encoded altered movement protein comprises SEQ ID NO:6;

b) introducing the viral vector into the ~~eukaryotic~~ plant host cell to produce a transformant host cell;

c) growing the transformant host cell under favorable conditions to effect transcription of the transgene; and

d) regenerating a transformant host cell into a transformant tissue or whole organism, thereby providing stable expression of the transgene.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the viral vector further comprises sequences encoding altered 126/183 viral proteins, wherein the altered 126/183 viral proteins enhance stabilization of the transgene encoded by the viral vector.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the altered 126/183 viral proteins have nucleic acid alterations at the nucleotide positions 1138, 1268, 2382, and 3632 as shown in SEQ ID NO:2.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the viral vector comprises SEQ ID NO:2.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the ~~eukaryotic~~ plant host cell comprises a whole plant, an isolated plant cell, or a protoplast.

21. (Withdrawn-currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the ~~eukaryotic~~ plant host cell comprises a natural host for Agrobacterium, and wherein introducing the viral vector comprises performing Agrobacterium-mediated plant transformation.

22. (Withdrawn-currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the ~~eukaryotic~~ plant host cell comprises a species that can be regenerated from a protoplast, and wherein introducing the viral vector comprises performing protoplast transformation.

23. (Withdrawn-currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the ~~eukaryotic~~ plant host cell comprises a monocot, and wherein introducing the viral vector comprises performing calcium phosphate precipitation, polyethylene glycol treatment, electroporation, or a combination thereof.

24. (Withdrawn-currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein ~~the eukaryotic host cell comprises a plant cell, and wherein~~ introducing the viral vector comprises performing particle bombardment.

25. (Withdrawn-currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein ~~the eukaryotic host cell comprises a plant cell, and wherein~~ introducing the viral vector comprises performing a direct DNA transfer into pollen.

26. (Withdrawn-currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein ~~the eukaryotic host cell comprises a plant cell, and wherein~~ introducing the viral vector comprises performing hand inoculation of an upper surface of a leaf, a mechanical inoculation of a plant bed, a high pressure spray of a leaf, or a vacuum-infiltration.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein regenerating the transformant host cell comprises:

a) growing a transformant host cell in the presence of a selection medium that induces the generation of shoots in the plant species being transformed, thereby providing a transformant shoot;

b) transferring the transformant shoot to an appropriate root-inducing medium comprising the selection agent, and rooting the transformant shoot to form a plantlet; and

c) growing the plantlet in soil.